



CORRECTIONS CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the Louisville Metropolitan Department of Corrections

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Director's Message



As we celebrate the holiday season and prepare to wrap up one year and embrace another, I'd like to thank you all for a year of marked achievement and success. We've made a number of great strides in 2010 thanks to your hard work and dedication. We've continued to set the bar higher and higher, and you have risen to meet it. I appreciate each of your efforts in moving us forward.

The New Year will bring a lot of exciting challenges. We will mark the end of the long and successful administration of Mayor Jerry Abramson and embrace new leadership under Mayor Greg Fischer. There will be some differences and adjustments, Mayor Fischer is a businessman and will likely take a businessman's approach on a number of issues. While his style may be different, he shares many of the same values as his predecessor. We look forward to following his lead.

As for the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections, we will continue making positive changes, improving our processes and systems, and insisting on accountability, efficiency and transparency. Our mission remains basically the same: we will continue to keep our facilities clean, treat inmates, co-workers and fellow citizens of Louisville with respect, abide by all policies and procedures, and "do the right thing" 24/7.

Allow me to thank you again for a year of positive growth and progress, and to ask you to stay the course in 2011. In the meantime, I wish you all the best this holiday season. May you enjoy your family and friends, and treasured time spent with both.

Happy Holidays!



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Break Room Renovation



The 4th Floor break room in the main jail has an exciting new look. Lt. Chris Dobson, Sgt. Larry Bisson and the entire maintenance staff spent weeks painting, getting a new flat screen TV, securing new tables, collecting items, hanging pictures and getting the Director's Challenge Coin designed sealed into the floor.



One of the most interesting new additions is the History Wall which includes a timeline of the jail's history, a collection of old photos, and shots of the patches and badges the Department has used over the years.

LMPD Gym Access

Many employees at Metro Corrections use the LMPD Gym and with the price for membership at \$60 per year, Chief Robert White has agreed to provide Corrections with ten electronic access key cards to use the gym for free.

Director Mark Bolton has announced that the electronic access cards will be kept at the front desk lobby of the Main Jail to be checked out as needed. Anyone using the electronic access card will need to sign a one time agreement and risk waiver, and leave his or her ID at the front desk while using the LMPD gym.

American Legion Shawnee Post's Corrections Officer of the Year

The American Legion Shawnee Post recently named Sgt. Phillip Miller its "Corrections Officer of the Year." His nomination included a list of attributes: no sick time or disciplinary in his file, a dedicated member of the Special Operations Response Team (SORT), responsible for a high number of high risk transports without incident, a record of scheduling train-



ing for his element of SORT without using overtime, changing his own off days to support the mission of the jail and volunteering for joint agency operations.

Also, Miller is a member of the Army National Guard and has served several deployments.

The nomination also noted that Miller has been able to accomplish so much due to the love and support of his family.

Gym Equipment Fundraising Efforts

After a number of employees expressed concern about the dilapidated and broken equipment in the 4th Floor Gym at the Main Jail, an effort was launched to raise money to buy new equipment.

Sandy Northington volunteered to cook a Thanksgiving Dinner with the profits to go toward the Gym Equipment Fund. She got the support of Day Shift Lieutenants and others and began getting things organized. Officer Jerry Bolton donated three turkeys and the plan was underway.

Thanks to several volunteers (Sandy Northington, Lt. Lanita Davis, Sgt. Tamiko Joyner, Shavon Shipley and Katreese Walker) and the support of the Dayshift staff, the Thanksgiving Fundraising Dinner was a success! The hope is that other groups in the Department will come up with fundraisers to help raise money for the joint project in the hopes of buying new gym equipment in early 2011.



The Day Shift Lieutenants and the sworn staff were the next group to come up with a fundraiser. They organized a basket effort with all of the floors asked to contribute. Look for an update on that effort in January. The 3-to-11 shift has been very ambitious (read further in this newsletter) and Classification is planning to put together a U of L and a UK basket to raffle off in March.



Lieutenant for a Day

The Lieutenants on 3 to 11 came up with an interesting way to raise money for the Gym Equipment Fund and educate some of their officers about their own duties and responsibilities as Shift Commanders.

They raffled off chances to become "Lieutenant for a Day." Officer Kristopher Johnson was one of the winners and the first to follow the Lieutenants for a shift.

Johnson got to start off at roll call, then spend time with each of the Lt's to get a close-up look at things like doing payroll, putting together schedules, making rounds and doing walk and talks.



Officer Chris Brown was the next "Lt. for a Day." He says it was a good experience and never realized how payroll can really get out of control if you don't watch it everyday. He notes you'd be amazed at how many officers punch out instead of in and vice-versa.

Overall, he said, "It was a joy to see the staff work together in harmony to make all the moving and changing parts we have fit.



Ever see the movie *Anchorman*? This was a fun photo taken during Lt. for a Day rounds, playing on the Ron Burgundy "Look Away" bit. Sometimes a little bit of humor in a jail is a good thing.

Racing to Raise Money

The 3 to 11 shift also raised money for the Gym Fund by hosting an X-box Racing Competition using one of the newer games that require no controls.

In this game, the camera reads your body movements as a way of controlling your race car. It's a little different at first, but once you get the hang of it a lot of fun.



The competition took place over several days so as not to interfere with jail operations or anyone's ability to do their job.



When the brackets were complete and the competition over, Officer Darrell McNeese (below on the left) was the overall winner.

Special thanks to Officer Andrew Rogers who had the idea, brought in the game and the game system and handled the logistics.





Light Up Louisville

Members of the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections Honor Guard braved bone-chilling temperatures to march in this year's *Light Up Louisville* Christmas Parade.

Team members include Officers Christopher Grossman, Jonathan Dever, Timothy Huber and Dane Dienethal. They did well, especially as only Grossman, who served six years in the Marine Corps, has prior military experience.



Grossman says the group first came together when they served as the rifle team at a former Corrections Officer's funeral.

As we mentioned they represented us well in the parade, especially considering the freezing temperatures. Captain Ashby also walked the entire parade route with them.



FOP Christmas Party

A good time was had by all at this year's FOP Christmas Party. This is the second party the FOP has held in its new lodge.



Although the party is hosted and paid for by the FOP it is always open to the entire Corrections staff.

Silent Auction

Thanks to everyone who collected or donated items, as well as those who stopped by and placed bids at this year's Silent Auction. Money from the Silent Auction is used to support our annual Coat-A-Kid Christmas effort.



As is often the case, winning an item can go down to the wire. Some of the items that generated a flurry of last minute bids included an Amazon Kindle, Skating Party with Skates, Flat Screen TV, Apple TV, Wine Cooler and a University of Louisville Collection with items signed by Coach Charlie Strong.



Again, thanks to everyone for making this year's auction a success.



Coat-A-Kid Shopping Trip

December 14th marked the day of this year's annual Coat-A-Kid shopping trip. We took thirty-two children from Roosevelt Perry Elementary School shopping for a new coat, new clothes and a toy.

We've worked with Roosevelt Perry for the last five years because the school has the highest number of low-income families and a Family Resource Coordinator (Kevin Knochenmus) who selects the children based on need.



We spend a set amount on each child and adding things up—especially when you're shopping with several children can be challenging. Above, Sandy Northington is calculating money spent so far.



Officer Ronnie Stoner (above) is shown trying to help one elementary school student try on a new coat. He actually helped three children shop for Christmas this year.

Retired Officer Gary Dodson noted the incredibly high number of Barbies on the market these days.



The child above on the left arrived with no coat at all the day we shopped (on a day when temperatures were in the single digits.) He was very excited about the new coat (shown here) that Chaplain Whitlow helped him pick out.



It wouldn't be a Coat-A-Kid shopping trip without Santa.

Again, many thanks to all who supported this year's Coat-A-Kid effort whether by donating items to the Silent Auction, buying items at the Silent Auction or shopping with the kids.